

09-05-00

A

1c714 U.S. PTO  
09/01/00Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐Approved for use through 09/30/2000 OMB 0651-0032  
Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number**UTILITY  
PATENT APPLICATION  
TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. AC-001

First Inventor or Application Identifier Cabot, Anthony N.

Title Multiway Poker Game Method and Apparatus

Express Mail Label No. EK175816395US

**APPLICATION ELEMENTS**

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, DC 202311. ☒ \* Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)  
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)2. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 24]  
(preferred arrangement set forth below)

- Descriptive title of the Invention
- Cross References to Related Applications
- Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
- Reference to Microfiche Appendix
- Background of the Invention
- Brief Summary of the Invention
- Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
- Detailed Description
- Claim(s)
- Abstract of the Disclosure

3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 6]

4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 2]

- a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))  
(for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)
  - i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**  
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

\* NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 &amp; 13: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.28).

5. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission  
(if applicable, all necessary)

- a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
- b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
- c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

**ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS**

- 7. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
- 8. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney  
(when there is an assignee)
- 9. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
- 10. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☒ Copies of IDS Citations
- 11. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- 12. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)  
(Should be specifically itemized)
- 13. ☒ \* Small Entity Statement(s) ☐ Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired  
(PTO/SB/09-12)
- 14. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  
(if foreign priority is claimed)
- 15. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

16. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Prior application information Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Group / Art Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

**17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**☐ Customer Number or Bar Code Labelor ☒ Correspondence address below

(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)

Name	VICTOR J. GALLO				
Address	P.O. Box 10938				
City	Zephyr Cove	State	NV	Zip Code	89448
Country	USA	Telephone	(775) 588-3306	Fax	(775) 588-3326

Name (Print/Type)	VICTOR J. GALLO	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	41,768
Signature	<i>Victor Gallo</i>	Date	9/1/00

Burden Hour Statement This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10**

**Inventors:** Cabot, Anthony N.  
**Title:** Multiway Poker Game Method and Apparatus  
**Papers:**

1. A Utility Patent Application Transmittal Letter Form PTO/SB/05 (1page);
2. A Fee Transmittal Form PTO/SB/17 (1 page original and one copy);
3. A Patent Application (Utility) (24 pages) including:
  - A Specification (18 pages);
  - 20 Claims (5 pages);
  - An Abstract (1 page).
4. 7 Drawing Figures (6 Drawing Sheets);
5. A Declaration for Utility Patent Application Form PTO/SB/01 (2 pages);
6. A Statement Claiming Small Entity Status (37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b)) – Independent Inventor Form PTO/SB/09 (1 page);
7. An Information Disclosure Statement Form PTO/1449 (including 4 citations); and
8. A check in the amount of \$345.00 which is to cover the government filing fee for utility patent (small entity).

I hereby certify that the above identified correspondence, which is attached, is being deposited with the United States Postal Express Mail, Post Office to Addressee, mailing label #EK175816395US, in an envelope addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Box Patent Application

Washington DC 20231

on September 1, 2000

Victor J. Gallo

  
(Signature)

September 1, 2000

(Date of Signature)

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))--INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

Docket Number (Optional)  
**AC-001**

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: Cabot, Anthony N.

Application or Patent No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Filed or Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Multiway Poker Game Method and Apparatus

As a below named inventor, I hereby state that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

- ☒ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.  
☐ the application identified above.  
☐ the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☒ No such person, concern, or organization exists.  
☐ Each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

**Anthony N. Cabot**

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR

Signature of inventor

Signature of inventor

Signature of inventor

Date

Date

Date

This application is submitted in the name of inventor Anthony Cabot.

## S P E C I F I C A T I O N

### MULTIWAY POKER GAME METHOD AND APPARATUS

#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

##### 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to games of chance. More particularly, the present invention relates to an apparatus and method for a NxN array poker card game.

##### 2. The Prior Art

Both manual and video poker games are known in the art. These games, especially the video variety, garner much player attention at modern casinos. New variations of such games are sought after by casinos to provide additional entertainment and excitement to players.

One such game of late is embodied in U.S. Patent Number 5,823,873 to Moody. This video five card draw poker hybrid game presents two to three possible poker hands to a  
5 player. The player makes a wager on each row of cards. One row of five cards is dealt all face up. The player selects which of the five face up cards are to be held. Those held cards are then duplicated into the remaining hands.

Replacement cards for the non-held cards are then dealt to the face up hand. Additional cards are also dealt to the other rows so that each row has five cards. The poker hand ranking for each row of cards is then determined and the player is paid for any winning hands based on a pay table and the amount of the player's wager.

Others have likewise attempted variations of draw poker to entice more play with varying degrees of success.

Clearly, from the attraction of the variety of video poker games in modern casinos, players seem to want more from  
20 draw poker than just the old fashioned draw poker. However, prior art games are limited to but a few hands to wager on and the propagation of the same "hold" cards throughout the

various hands. With casinos demanding ever more "exciting" games, additional games are still needed to provide the players with the variations necessary to continue their entertainment.

5

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

To overcome these and other shortcomings of the prior art, disclosed herein is an apparatus and method for playing draw poker. More particularly, the present invention provides a multiline draw poker game. The game may be conducted manually, by way of the modern video poker game machine, or via a network such as the internet, a wide area network, or the internet.

The multiway poker game is a draw poker game utilizing, preferably, one standard deck of 52 cards and may utilize more than one standard deck of 52 cards. The player plays against a pay table. The pay table indicates the outcomes that must occur in a final hand presentation for a player to win.

The game is played, preferably, by arranging 25 cards in five rows and five columns. Alternately, the game can be played with nine cards arranged in three rows and three columns.

5

In the 25-card arrangement, the player has the option of wagering on one to 12 different paylines. That is, in a 5x5 array, five rows of cards are available as paylines, five columns of cards are available as paylines, and two diagonal sets of five cards are available as paylines. Zigzag lines may be optionally allowed thereby increasing the number of paylines, but are not preferred since straight lines tend to be less confusing to players.

15

The player can bet on any number of the lines from one through 12, but the order in which the lines may be purchased may be limited to a predefined order. That is, due to the arrangement of cards and the correlation between certain cards, for example the center card, and multiple possible paylines, the lesser attractive paylines may be required to be selected before the more attractive center and diagonal paylines. Since certain lines are likely to be

more desirable to the player, this approach will require the player to wager more money to obtain the more attractive lines. Thus, if a player only wishes to play or wager on one line of cards, the player may be limited to only the top row of cards. Likewise, if a player wanted to play 10 but not all 12 lines, then the player may not be allowed to play the diagonals. Furthermore, bets on each line may be limited to equal denominations as is common in most casinos.

In the video version of the game, the player selects each line by inserting a coin or token into the machine for each line to be played. Optionally, credits from a credit meter may be used in a like fashion. After selecting the lines to be played, the game is started and a random number generator will generate 50 cards - two for each space on the 5x5 array layout. Alternately, 25 cards may be initially generated, while any non-held cards are replaced by newly generated cards. The first set of cards are then initially displayed on each of the spaces corresponding to the paylines wagered upon by the player.



After the initial set of cards is displayed, the player is given the opportunity to choose which cards are to be held. This is preferably accomplished via a touchscreen display with the player "touching" the cards to be held, but could be accomplished with buttons, a trackball, or other pointing device. When the player has finished selecting the cards to be held, the player will then press a button or area on the touchscreen to direct the game machine to discard the unselected cards and replace them with new cards.

The game then determines the outcome by comparing each line of cards played with a pay table. For each line that produces a winning hand, the game will pay or credit the player with the appropriate payout for the winning combination according to the pay table. For example, a line of cards wagered upon resulting in "3 of a kind" may pay 3 to 1 (or 3 times the amount wagered on that line of cards). Thus, if a player wagered one dollar on that line, then the player would receive three dollars as the payout.

Likewise, a 3x3 version of the game is also disclosed. The 3x3 game is similar to the 5x5 game but includes less or different possible outcomes. For instance, "two pair" and "four of a kind" would not be possible hand outcomes.

5

A manual version of the game is also disclosed and is played in a manner quite similar to the above. However, the player manually indicates which cards are to be held, and a human dealer handles the dealing of the cards.

10

15

Viewed from a first vantage point a method for playing a poker game is disclosed, comprising in combination, dealing, face up, a NxN array of cards, selecting none, some, or all of the cards to be held in the NxN array of cards, dealing new cards to replace unselected cards; and determining the poker hand rankings of predefined N card arrangements.

20

Viewed from another vantage point a program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for playing a poker game is disclosed, the method

comprising in combination, dealing, face up, a NxN array of cards, selecting none, some, or all of the cards to be held in the NxN array of cards, dealing new cards to replace unselected cards, and determining the poker hand rankings of predefined N card arrangements.

Viewed from yet another vantage point a video poker game machine is disclosed, comprising in combination, means for displaying to a player a NxN array of cards, means activated by the player for selecting some, none, or all of said cards to be held in said array, means for displaying replacement cards for said cards not selected as held in said array, if any, and means for determining the poker hand rankings of predefined N card arrangements.

These and other objects of the present invention will become manifest from the further descriptions and claims of the invention provided herein.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

FIG. 1 is a front view drawing of a game machine of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a drawing of a 5x5 array of face down cards of the present invention with paylines overlaid thereon of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is an exemplary card hand depiction of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is an exemplary redrawn hand depiction with winning combination lines shown thereon of the present invention.

FIG. 5A is a 3x3 version of the present invention with eight paylines indicated thereon.

FIG. 5B is an exemplary final game outcome in the 3x3 version of the present invention highlighting possible winning combinations.

FIG. 6 is a flowchart of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5       Persons of ordinary skill in the art will realize that  
the following description of the present invention is  
illustrative only and not in any way limiting. Other  
embodiments of the invention will readily suggest  
themselves to such skilled persons having the benefit of  
10 this disclosure.

Referring now to the drawing figures wherein like  
reference numerals denote like parts throughout the various  
drawing figures, reference numeral 10 is directed to a  
15 video poker game machine. The video poker machine 10  
includes a cabinet 12 for housing a video display 26,  
preferably including a touchscreen. Located on cabinet 12  
are several features found in traditional video poker  
gaming machines such as buttons 14 for operating one or  
20 more functions of the game, a coin slot 16 for inserting  
coins into the machine, a credit meter 18 for displaying  
credits available, a bill validator 20 for receiving cash

into the machine, a player tracking card reader 22 for receipt of magnetic stripe player tracking cards, and a coin payout bin 24 for paying out coin winnings to a player. These features are intended to be illustrative only and not intended to be constraining with regard to this invention. Included within the game machine (but not shown) are a processor, memory, and a random number generator, as is common to modern video game machines. The game code is maintained within the memory which is operatively coupled to the processor. The random number generator, required for most jurisdictions, is operatively coupled to said processor as well.

More importantly, displayed on video display 26 is a NxN array of cards 30 face down. In this particular drawing figure, the array is 5x5. Also shown are possible paylines as dashed lines traversing each horizontal row, each vertical column, and each diagonal of five cards.

In short, the game is played by a player wagering on one or more of the paylines presented and then 25 cards are presented face up from a 52 card deck in the positions of

the 5x5 array. The player may then hold some, all, or none of the cards. Those cards not held are discarded and replaced from the deck. The poker hand ranking of each payline wagered upon is determined and winning hands are  
5 paid according to a pay table and the amount wagered.

The preferred 5x5 array 30 of cards 32 is further represented in Figure 2. In Figure 2, a preferred arrangement of the paylines is depicted. That is, as will  
10 be understood from the detailed disclosure of the game provided herein below, certain paylines may be more attractive to a player due to the overlap of cards. Thus, the paylines are preferably arranged so as to require the purchase of less attractive paylines prior to the purchase  
15 of the more attractive paylines to encourage the pay and play of more paylines.

Thus, payline 1 is shown at row 34, while payline 2 is shown at row 42, and paylines 3 and 4 are at rows 36 and 40  
20 respectively. Likewise the more attractive payline 5 is at row 38 and could not be purchased without first having purchased the paylines 1 through 4. Similarly, payline 6 is

at column 52, payline 7 is at column 44, payline 8 is at column 50, and payline 9 is at column 46. While the more attractive payline 10 is at column 48, which could not be wagered on unless the first nine paylines were wagered on already. The highly attractive and interesting diagonal paylines 11 and 12 are located at diagonals 54 and 56 respectively and would likewise require wagers on the preceding paylines prior to a player being allowed to place a wager thereon.

For example, and referring now to Figure 3, after the paylines have been wagered on, the cards 32 are dealt in a 5x5 array 30 as shown in Figure 3. This example will assume all 12 paylines have been wagered upon. The shaded cards 60 are selected by a player to hold. That is, the queen of spades, the jack of hearts, the ace of diamonds, the queen of hearts, the jack of clubs, the ace of clubs, the king of clubs, and the jack of spades are held. The cards are preferably "held" by "touching" the cards to be held via a touchscreen display 26. Optionally, buttons 14, a trackball, or a pointing device could be configured to



allow for the selection of cards to be held or other like means.

The non-held cards are then discarded and replaced with  
5 new cards from the remaining cards of the deck as shown in  
Figure 4. Each row, column, and diagonal set of five cards  
is compared to a pay table to determine whether the wager  
placed on the respective payline should be paid according  
to the pay table or forfeited. In this example, hands A, B,  
10 C, D, E, and F are indicated as winning hands and the  
player would be paid or credited accordingly. An exemplary  
pay table is provided at Table 1.

HAND	PAYOUT
Jacks or Better	1 to 1
Two Pair	2 to 1
3 of a Kind	3 to 1
Straight	4 to 1
Flush	5 to 1
Full House	7 to 1
4 of a Kind	25 to 1
Straight Flush	50 to 1
Royal Flush	250 to 1

TABLE 1

In this example then, hand A which includes a pair of  
 5 aces would pay 1 to 1. That is, whatever amount was wagered  
 on payline 4, would be returned to the player. Likewise,  
 hand B would be paid in like fashion since it also includes  
 a pair of aces. Hand C, which consists of a pair of kings,  
 would also be paid 1 to 1. While hand D would be paid 2 to  
 10 1 for two pair (two jacks and two queens). Hand E, which  
 consists of a pair of aces, would be paid 1 to 1. In total,  
 the player would be paid six credits, assuming the player

wagered one credit per each of the 12 paylines (wagered 12 credits).

Certain variations of the game are also contemplated to provide even further excitement. For example, wild cards could be added to the deck making a wild card located in an overlapping payline position quite interesting (a wild card is a card which can be the best possible card needed for the hand in question given the other cards that have been dealt). Another example is to provide the center space of the array as the wild card. That is, if the center space is a five of hearts, it and all other fives are wild. Another example variation is to provide a higher payout on the diagonal lines; thus, further encouraging wagering on all 12 lines. Alternately, the diagonal lines can be associated with a progressive system thereby providing potentially larger jackpots on the diagonal lines. Of course, lesser progressive payouts can be provided in such a system then on the horizontal or vertical lines.

In one alternate embodiment, and referring now to Figure 5A, a 3x3 poker game could be played instead. In

fact, any  $N \times N$  array could be played, however, five card poker is most popular, and three card poker games are somewhat familiar, while other poker games are less well known. Of course in the  $3 \times 3$  game, certain hands available in a 5 card game would not be possible such as "two pair," "full house," or "four of a kind." An example completed array along with winning highlighted combinations is shown in Figure 5B. Such a  $3 \times 3$  array allows for eight potential paylines; three rows, three columns, and two diagonals.

As with many poker games, this invention can be played manually as well, with or without wagering. Referring now to Figure 6, a flowchart of such a manual game is shown. A player must initially choose the paylines to be played (by either placing a wager beside the paylines or indicating to the dealer in some other fashion). Next, the cards are dealt in a  $N \times N$  array, again preferably a  $5 \times 5$  array. The player then indicates which cards are to be held. The non-held cards are discarded and replaced with new cards from the deck. The outcome is determined by comparing each of the rankings of the 12 hands to a pay table or game rules to determine win or loss. In the wagering version, winning

hands or paylines are paid according to a pay table (which would be available to and presented to the player as needed).

5 Another alternative is to provide the game code on a host computer and allow players at client devices to play the game. Such a configuration is contemplated for internet online games, networked games within a casino (LAN), and networked games between casinos (WAN). As internet gaming becomes more widespread, and as many traditional casino games are being provided via the internet, to provide the above-described game via the internet or other network is specifically within the scope of this invention.

15 While embodiments and applications of this invention have been shown and described, it would be apparent to those skilled in the art that many more modifications than mentioned above are possible without departing from the inventive concepts herein. The invention, therefore, is not to be restricted except in the spirit of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for playing a poker game, comprising in combination:

5        dealing, face up, a NxN array of cards;  
      selecting none, some, or all of the cards to be  
held in the NxN array of cards;  
      dealing new cards to replace unselected cards; and  
      determining the poker hand rankings of predefined  
10    N card arrangements.

2. The poker game of claim 1 wherein said NxN array  
of cards is a 5x5 array of cards.

15    3. The poker game of claim 1 wherein said NxN array  
of cards is a 3x3 array of cards.

4. The poker game method of claim 1 further  
comprising placing a wager on at least one payline  
20    prior to the initial dealing of the cards.

5. The poker game method of claim 4 further comprising determining whether said at least one payline wagered on includes a winning outcome after determining the poker hand rankings and if so, paying the player according to a pay table.

6. The poker game method of claim 2 further comprising 12 paylines arranged as five vertical lines, five horizontal lines, and two diagonal lines.

7. The poker game method of claim 6 further comprising allowing the purchase of said 12 paylines sequentially in a predetermined order.

8. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for playing a poker game, said method comprising in combination:

dealing, face up, a NxN array of cards;

selecting none, some, or all of the cards to be held in the NxN array of cards;

dealing new cards to replace unselected cards; and  
determining the poker hand rankings of predefined  
N card arrangements.

5 9. The poker game of claim 8 wherein said NxN array  
of cards is a 5x5 array of cards.

10. The poker game of claim 8 wherein said NxN array  
of cards is a 3x3 array of cards.

10 11. The poker game method of claim 8 further  
comprising placing a wager on at least one payline  
prior to the initial dealing of the cards.

15 12. The poker game method of claim 11 further  
comprising determining whether said at least one  
payline wagered on includes a winning outcome after  
determining the poker hand rankings and if so, paying  
the player according to a pay table.



13. The poker game method of claim 9 further comprising 12 paylines arranged as five vertical lines, five horizontal lines, and two diagonal lines.

5 14. The poker game method of claim 13 further comprising allowing the purchase of said 12 paylines sequentially in a predetermined order.

10 15. A video poker game machine, comprising in combination:

means for displaying to a player a NxN array of cards;  
means activated by the player for selecting some, none, or all of said cards to be held in said array;  
15 means for displaying replacement cards for said cards not selected as held in said array, if any; and  
means for determining the poker hand rankings of predefined N card arrangements.

20 16. The video poker game machine of claim 15 further comprising a touchscreen as at least one said means

activated by the player for selecting some, none, or all of said cards to be held in said array.

17. The video poker game machine of claim 16 further comprising means for wagering at least one coin to activate the game.

18. The video poker game machine of claim 17 further comprising means for awarding an amount according to a pay table and said amount wagered when the value of a hand is determined to be a winning value.

19. The video poker game machine of claim 18 wherein said NxN array of cards is a 5x5 array of cards.

20. The video poker game machine of claim 18 wherein said NxN array of cards is a 3x3 array of cards.

## ABSTRACT

Disclosed herein is an apparatus and method for playing a poker game. More particularly, a poker game is presented including a NxN array of cards. At least one group of N cards in the NxN array includes a payline associated therewith. Not unlike standard draw poker, if a winning hand outcome occurs on the payline(s), the player is paid according to a pay table. Both video and manual versions of the game are presented.

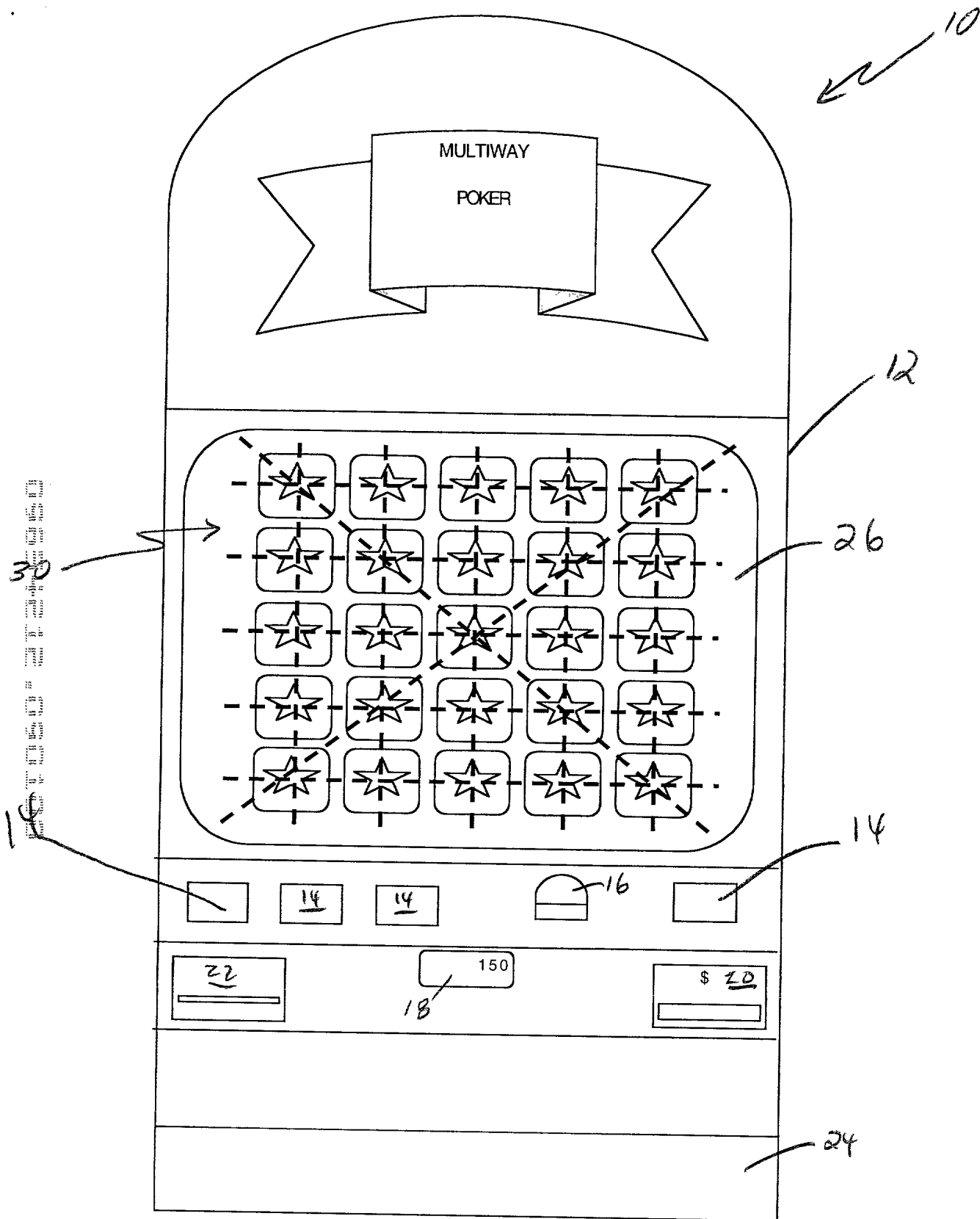


FIG. 1

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of a grid of stars, each star being a five-pointed star with a dashed line passing through its center. The stars are arranged in a 5x6 grid. The stars are labeled with numbers 1 through 12, and the grid is labeled with numbers 34 through 56. The stars are arranged in a 5x6 grid. The stars are labeled with numbers 1 through 12, and the grid is labeled with numbers 34 through 56.

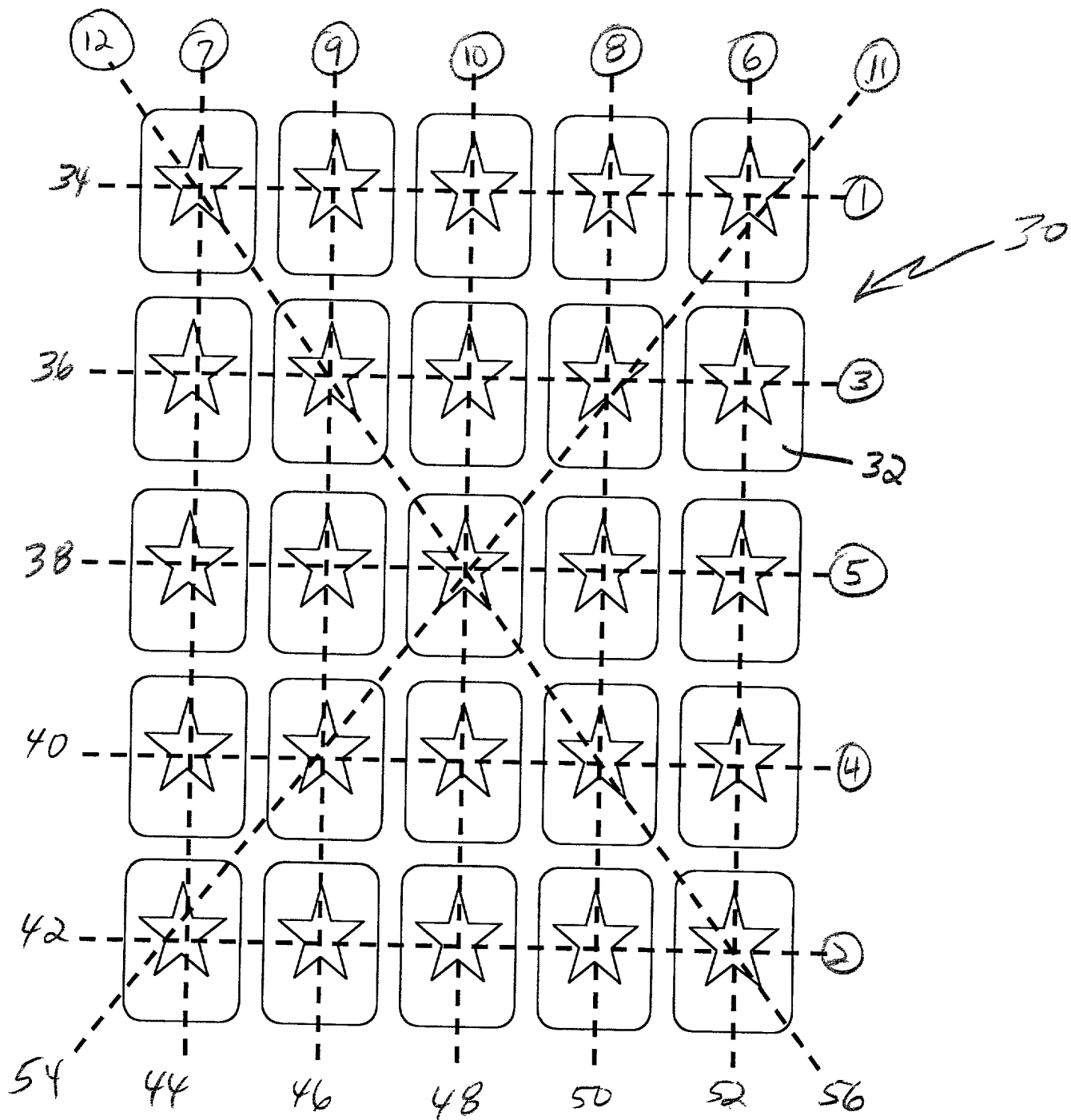


FIG. 2

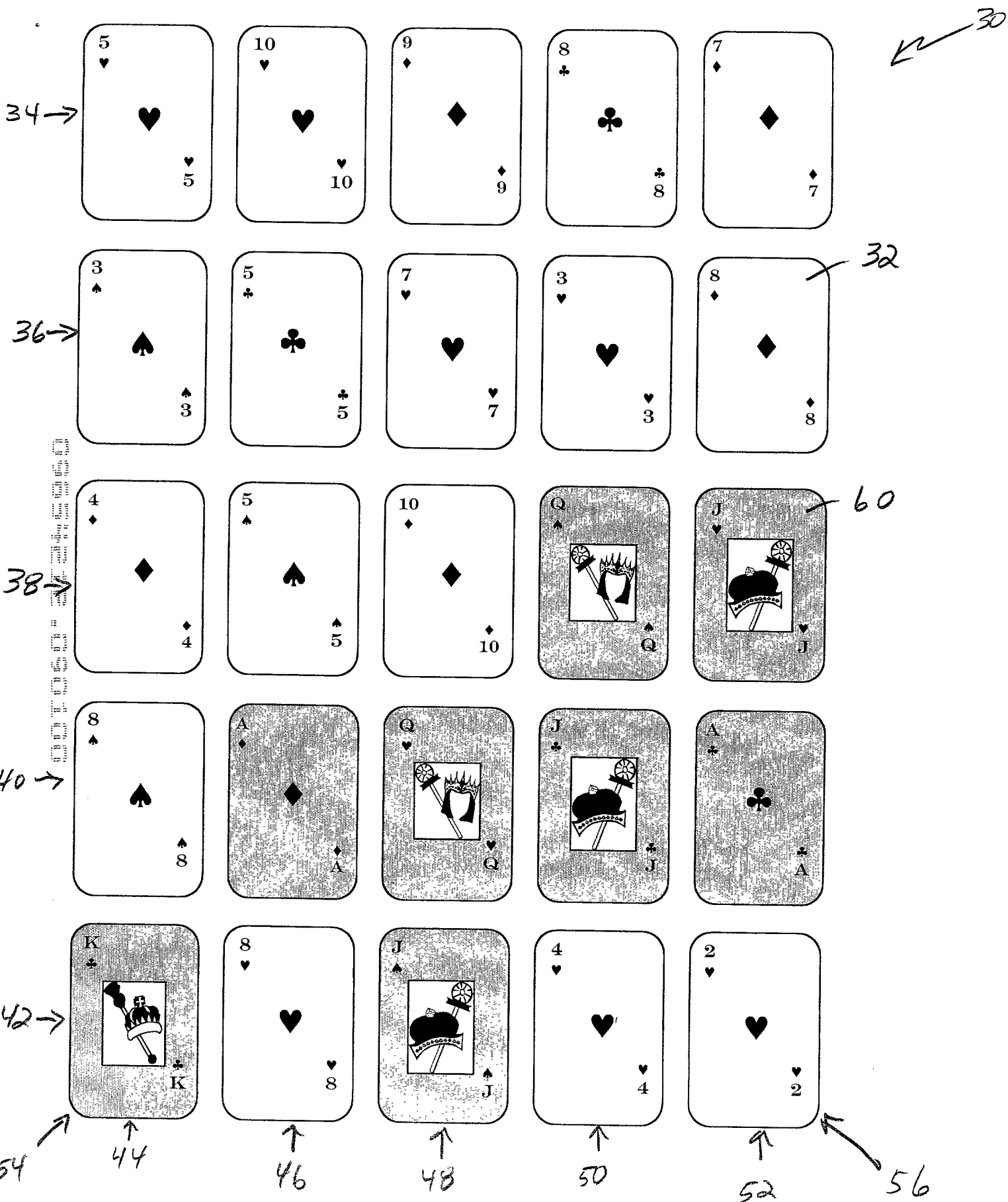


FIG. 3

FIG. 4 is a diagram of a 5x5 grid of playing cards. The cards are arranged in a 5x5 grid. The cards are: Row 1: 3 of Clubs, 7 of Clubs, 9 of Clubs, 6 of Hearts, Q of Clubs. Row 2: 2 of Clubs, 6 of Diamonds, 7 of Spades, J of Diamonds, 10 of Clubs. Row 3: 4 of Clubs, K of Diamonds, A of Spades, Q of Spades, J of Hearts. Row 4: K of Spades, A of Diamonds, Q of Hearts, J of Clubs, A of Clubs. Row 5: K of Clubs, 9 of Spades, J of Spades, Q of Diamonds, A of Hearts. A diagonal line runs from the top-left to the bottom-right. A horizontal line runs through the middle of the grid. A vertical line runs through the middle of the grid. A letter 'F' is at the top-left, 'C' is at the top, 'D' is at the top, 'B' is at the top, and 'E' is at the top-right. A number '30' is at the top-right. A letter 'A' is at the bottom-right.

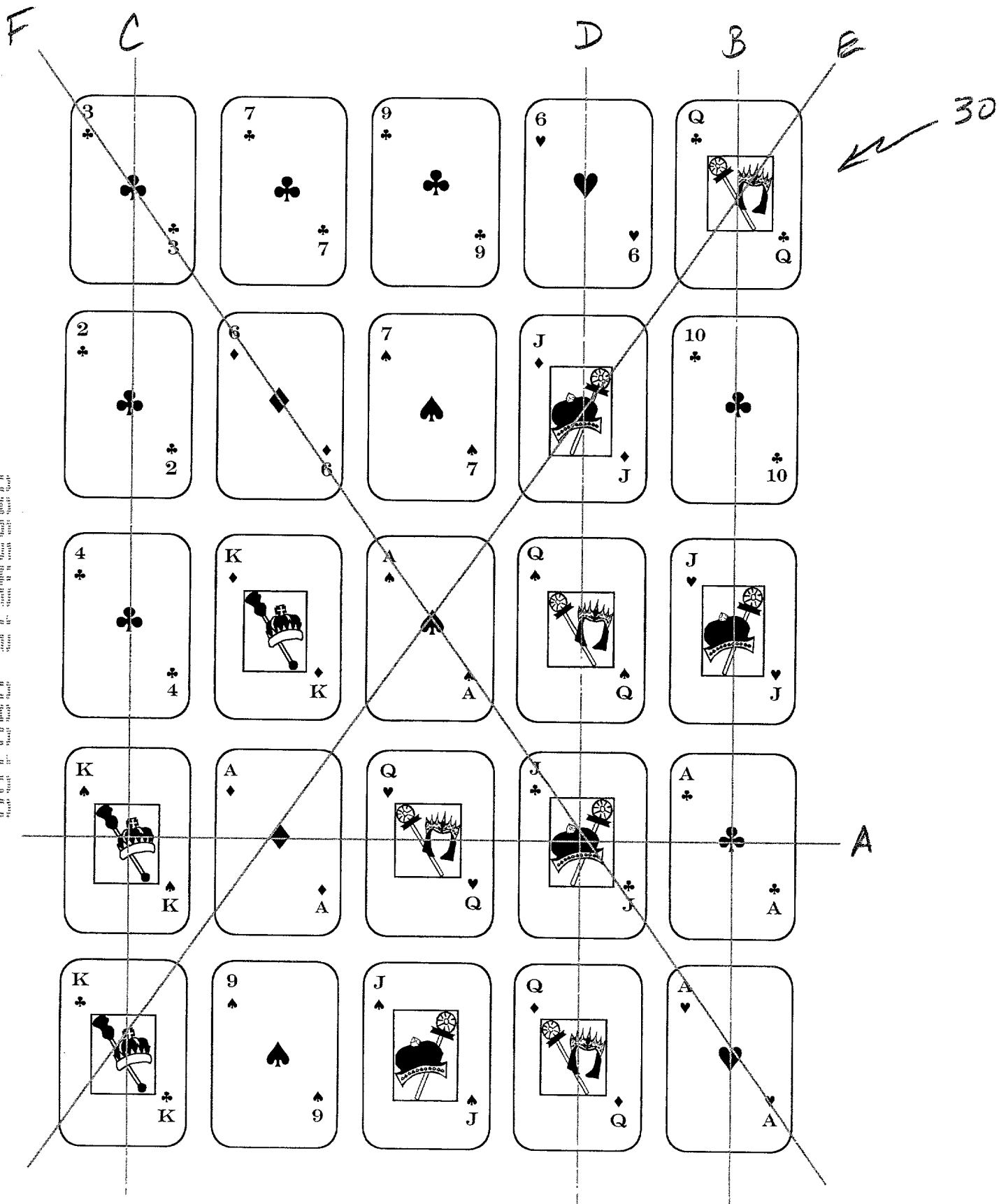


FIG. 4

FIG. 5A

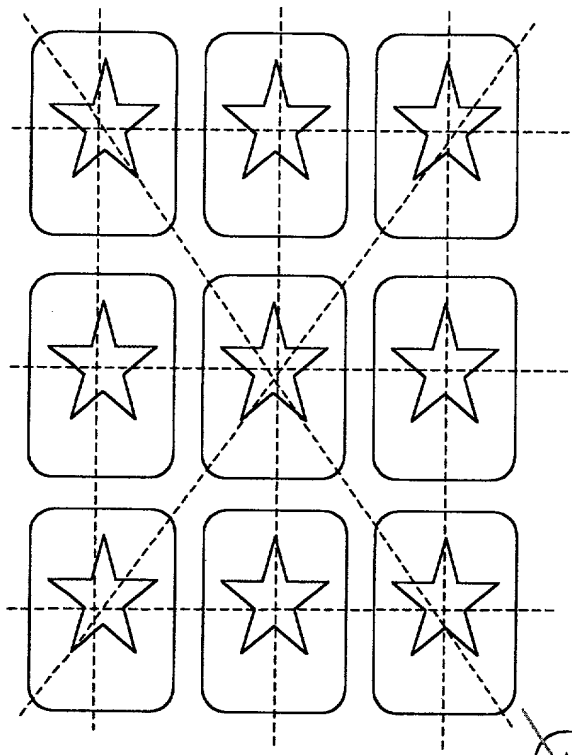


FIG. 5A

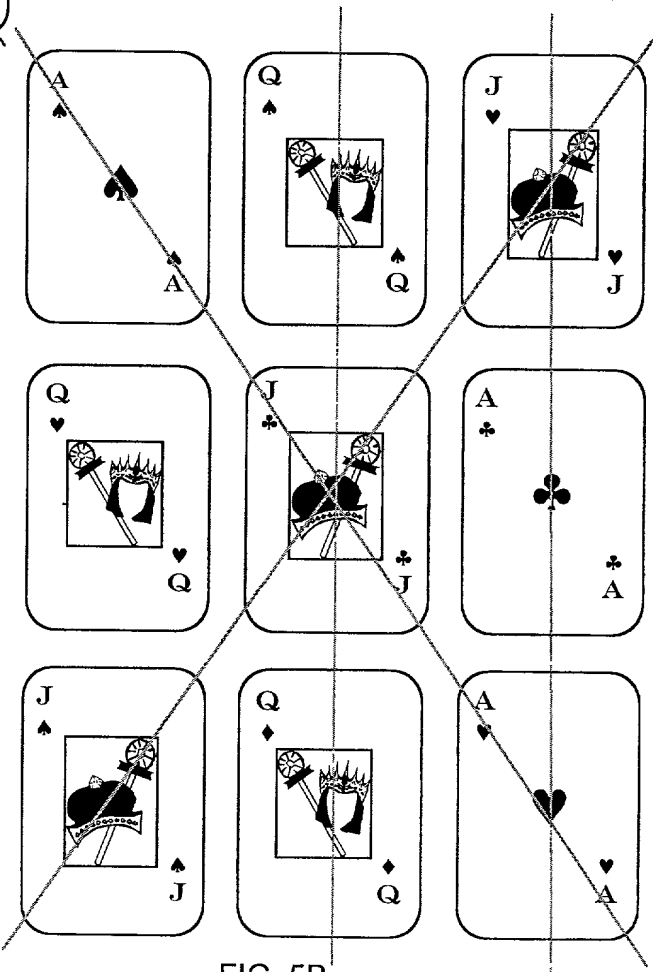


FIG. 5B

FIG. 5



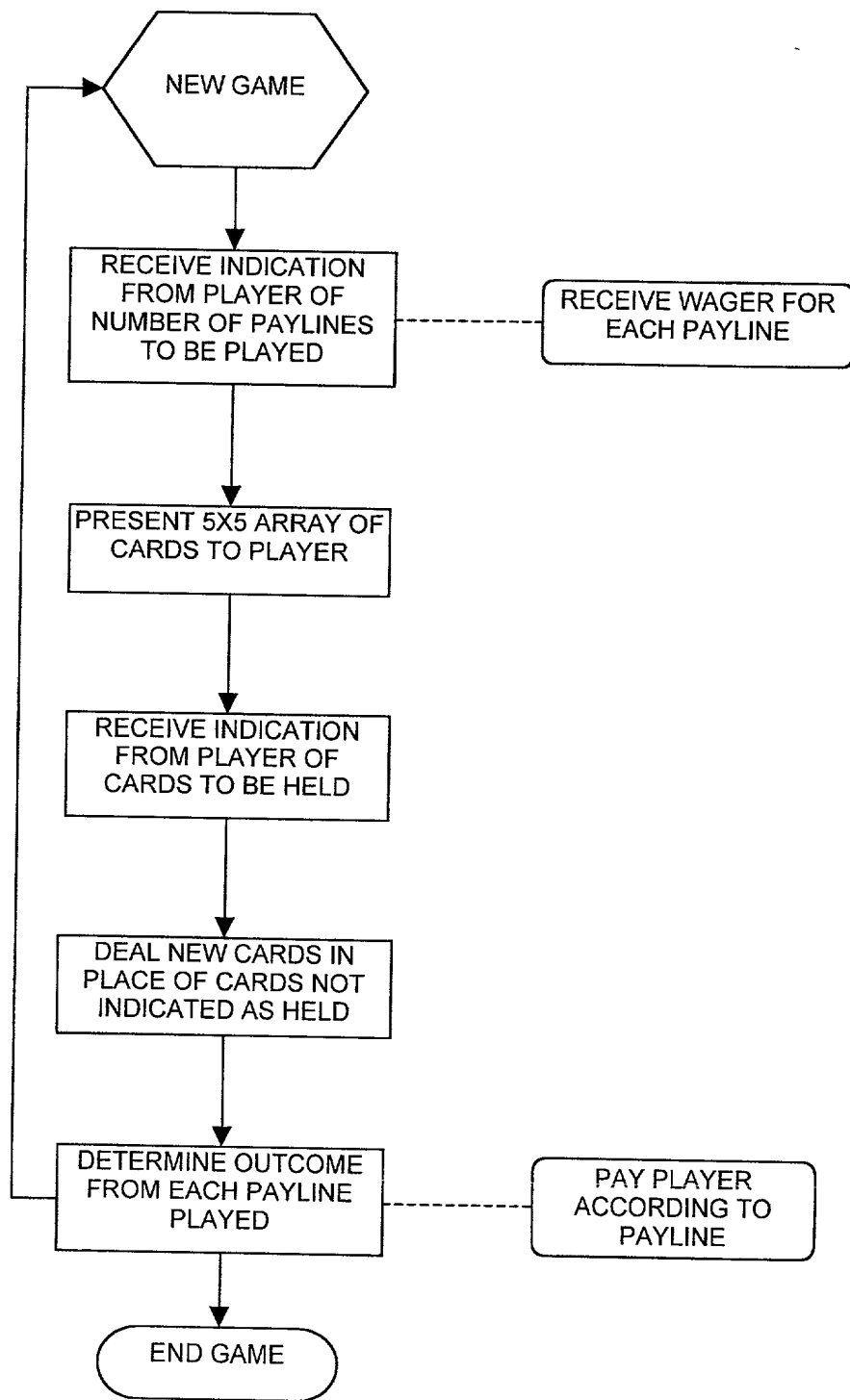


FIG. 6

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

PTO/SB/01 (12-97)  
Approved for use through 9/30/00. OMB 0651-0032  
Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.



<b>DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION</b> <b>(37 CFR 1.63)</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing      OR <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	AC-001
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Cabot, Anthony N.
	<b>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</b>	
	<b>Application Number</b>	/
	<b>Filing Date</b>	
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	

**As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:**

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**MULTIWAY POKER GAME METHOD AND APPARATUS**

the specification of which  
☒ is attached hereto  
OR  
☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) [ ] as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number [ ] and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) [ ] (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

☐ Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.4 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.



Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

PTO/SB/01 (12-97)  
Approved for use through 9/30/00. OMB 0651-0032

Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

## DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

☐ Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

☐ Customer Number

OR

☒ Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below

Place Customer  
Number Bar Code  
Label here

Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number
Victor J. Gallo	41768		

☐ Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.


Direct all correspondence to: ☐ Customer Number or Bar Code Label ☒ Correspondence address below

Name	Victor J. Gallo				
Address					
Address	P.O. Box 10938				
City	Zephyr Cove	State	NV	ZIP	89448
Country	USA	Telephone	(775) 588-3306	Fax	(775) 588-3326

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor:

☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname					
Anthony N.		Cabot					
Inventor's Signature				Date	8/29/00		
Residence: City	Las Vegas	State	NV	Country	USA	Citizenship	USA
Post Office Address	5450 Manteca Circle						
Post Office Address							
City	Las Vegas	State	NV	ZIP	89118	Country	USA

☐ Additional inventors are being named on the supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto